**Minutes of the closing workshop of the forage development Innovation Platform of the NBDC and RIU Termite Projects for Diga**

**Date: December 27, 2013**

**Starting time: 10.30 am**

**Venue: Diga office of Agriculture**

**AGENDA:**

1. Introduction and welcome then update the agenda(by Debela Kenea)
2. Opening remark (Woreda Administrator)
3. Brief report of the project (local IP) operational activity over the last three years (Dereje Duressa)
4. RIU termite project present the findings of the study and remark the closing of the project
5. General Discussion and the way forward (Gerba)
6. Acknowledge partners and individuals for their contribution to the IP
7. Recap (Debela)
8. **Welcome and participant introduction**

Mr Debela Kenea, Director of EECMY CS DASSC for Nekemte and coordinator of the local IP has welcomed the participant from different institutions. He also briefly introduced the simultaneous closing of two events, the NBDC project IP forage development intervention and the RIU termite project of CPWF. He gave brief explanation on what the innovation platform (IP) is, when was it established, about member of the IP (organization/institution) and their contribution. He also articulated the progress made by the IP over the last couple of years. As follow up, he introduced the agenda for the event and call up on all participants to introduce themselves. Accordingly, participant of the closing event got known each other. Ultimately, Debela call up on Mr. Regassa Chewaka (Head of WoA and deputy head of Diga woreda Administration) to give a brief opening remark.



1. **Opening Remark (Mr. Regassa Chewaka)**

Mr. Regassa Chewaka welcomed the participants from different government sector offices, research institution, the University, NGOs and the farmers to attend the very closing event of the NBDC project and the RIU termite project. He traced back to both projects initiation a couple of years ago and remarked to the progress made, the lesson learned from the development research intervention and overall contribution of both projects to the capacity building, food security, land management and the transformation plan of the government of Ethiopian. He remarked that the workshop is to review the past achievement and to officially close both projects with commendable initiatives but still halfway from bringing reliable outcome with in such a short period of time. Eventually, he solicited to ILRI/IWMI for the continuation of the projects and he did earnestly wish smooth and interactive deliberation; then he declared that the workshop is officially open.

1. **Brief Report of the IP intervention: Dereje Duressa**

Mr. Dereje, member of the IP technical group briefly presented report on the NBDC –innovation platform from its genesis to the current status. The presentation was prepared in local language to enable every participant could listen and fully participate on the discussion. The report includes detail of the activities over the last two years including the budget utilization.



1. **Research finding report of the RIU termite project: Wollega University**

Similarly, research finding of the termite project was reported by Dr. Hirpa Legesse. Participants deliberated on both reports and came up with several questions for further discussions. Summary of discussion points, reflection and individuals and partners acknowledgement are presented in the following section.

1. **Genera Discussion on the IP and RIU termite projects**

**Questions from the Participants:**

* In termite research, cow dung and crop residue were discovered and reported as suitable treatments to manage the effect of termite on crop production. As you well know, crop residue is widely used by farmers for various purposes notably as livestock feed, fuel, construction, etc. Therefore, will the farmer afford to allocate large quantities of CR only for termite management? By Dr. Getachew Beshargo.
* How the project was evaluated? Habtamu Wondimu from WU wants to see detailed report of the progress documentation and he wanted to know techniques employed to conduct the M&E.
* You have reported that nitrogen fixing multipurpose tree species were introduced and integrated with forage development. Did you evaluate the rhizobium content of the roots of MPTs? Dr. Mulissa - This questions rose with the assumption of the characteristics of soils in lowland Diga which might be acidic and acid soil could inhibit rhizobium formation/development.
* ZoARD has three pilot woredas on termite management. Diga is one among others; however, we didn’t see the integration of the NBDC project with zone office of Agriculture. Now the project has become to an end so what is the fate of the project sustainability? Does it continue beyond the planned duration? Ato Mengistu from ZoARD crop protection expert.
* In the IP and RIU termite project, it is reported that packages of technologies developed for termite management and forage development, did you developed unique packages distinct from the existing practices? If so what are the components of the packages?
* Does the current forage plot will be reused continuously for forage development? In that case what is its implication on crop production? And did you validate whether production of various forage crops doesn’t have weedy effect? Dr. Temesgen Garoma, WU.
* Why value chain analysis was not included in every steps of the IP? Dr. Temesgen
* Will relevant organization continue monitoring the intervention? Otherwise there could be high likelihood of failure/back. Mr. Lata, champion farmer from pilot site.
* During the training we have learned about so many niche compatible forage species and MPTs but how could we access to those which are not yet available? Pastor Adugna (innovative farmer)
* Who will take full responsibility to sustain the initiative beyond the current territory? Adugna
* I have heard level bund within the forage plot would help to harvest rainwater and flood the termite through the termite gallery. Does this flood have any repercussion on soil fertility? Dr. Hachalu –WU
* What are the lessons learned to scale up/out the initiative? Dr. Hachalu.
* Why forage development on communal land is failed? Gerba.

1. **Brief response to the questions:**

Almost all questions were responded by relevant actors and institutions. Particularly the IP technical persons, farmers and the University researchers who were engaged on RIU termite project adequately responded to the raised issues. Regarding the failure of the common land forage development efforts, farmers accentuated their response on the nature of the communal land. In reality there is no communal land in their vicinity. The so called communal is already shared among individual farmers. Farmers said that though we had pulled together our own tenure, the common land was highly degraded, hence become unproductive. Therefore, farmers opt to move from the common land to on farm and backyard forage development where reasonable biomass yield could be harvested.

On the use of crop residue to control termite infestation, Wollega University planned to further the investigation. The university believed that continuing the research on termite management would enable to find out alternative management practices with tradeoff to the crop residue uses. The current findings, however, convinced farmers to take forward as supplying the stalks and manure to the soil cater food for termite and strongly mitigate their effect on live plant/crop. Appropriate spatial and temporal application techniques for manure and crop residue will be find out to reduce misuse and ensure efficient and effective use of the techniques.

As to the packages of technology generated by the IP for further replication, the most important things drawn from the platform is integration of efforts of different disciplines that makes the approach participatory and transdisciplinary. Basically, woreda level government line offices were fully engaged on the platform and contributed to the formulation and implementation of the IP. As a result, indigenous and scientific knowledge were integrated. In addition, practically oriented training would make the learning by doing activities very special. Hence, substantial lesson learned from land preparation to growing the crops through to the post-harvest handling and utilization. In general, the approach is clearly distinct from the business as usual.

Despite the threat of failure to grow legumes and multipurpose trees in the lowland Diga where soil acidity is largely anticipated because of the characteristics of humid climate, legume crops like haricot beans, soybeans and MPTs are yet growing well. However, validation of the rhizobium formation and the tuber size and number is areas of future research action as deemed necessary.

**Additional participant reflection:**

**Mr. Asafaw Temesgen (WU)**

* There should be transparency among the stakeholders or project partners to come together and work for common goals. Instead of assessing the work done from distant coming close and sharing the concern would make any efforts more productive and successful. Despite the efforts made to engage them, externalizing the invitation is commonly observed from some government line departments.
* Basically, research identifies the problems but it is up to the stakeholders to test, adapt and adopt the beneficial findings and make sure it is sustainable.
* Grass (forage) has multiple benefits. Therefore, it is the responsibility of woreda level actors to make best use of it.
* Value chain stakeholders should demonstrate their role and should advocate and link the supply with demand. Relevant and active stakeholders should be identified and engaged to make sure the initiative actively working on sustainable bases. Eg. The cooperative should play role of input/output marketing
* Wollega University Department of cooperative is committed to provide necessary support and consultation in this area.

**Mr. Beyene Gebisa (head, Diga woreda land administration):**

He is grateful to the institution who is organizing the closing event. NBDC project has created numerous opportunities. Among others, the following are some:

* Our district has got focus and scientific attention which we shall be benefiting from the outcome
* The capacity building offered to woreda gov’t line offices alarmed us to accordingly act on our regular work where we lacked clear direction and motivation. We were already awake and are currently trying to support our farmers in the best way.
* The capacity building efforts has transformed our ways of doing things. Lots of knowledge and skills were promoted through the innovation platform.
* Generally, we have learned that it is possible to overcome challenges and to turn the impossible to possible.

1. **The way forward and partners’ position:**

Representative of each stakeholder or institutions were invited to reflect their notion and position about the future of the project. Besides, they were also informed to reveal their vision of the future with and without the presence of donors or champion institutions. Accordingly, the following folks have brought their group opinion and position that harmonizes the interest of their fellow member as follow.

**Wollega University: Dr. Temesgen Garoma (Research Director)**

* The coming together/joint effort/ of stakeholders can bring positive impact in research and development arena. Virtually, cooperation has already been achieved among different institutions.
* Wollega University has fully participated on the NBDC project activities of the IP and RIU termite projects. So the University will continue collaborating.
* The university play role of teaching, research and community services. Currently the University is working on demand driven research, on already identified issues by regional and national government, and on technology transfer. Therefore, the university is willing to mobilize and deploy manpower on areas of interests that identified by our stakeholders and jointly work against the prevailing issues.

**Zone office of livestock Agency: Dereje Kebede**

* IP were initiated with few innovative farmers and has brought successful achievement.
* Previously, there was no as such feed related technology and its adoption particularly in the lowland area of Diga.
* Farmers are now transformed to the level of improved breed request which they have been afraid of the improved breed attributing to feed shortage and intensive feed and associated management requirements.
* This progress might not bring us to the end but it takes us to the level of more knowledge and skill demand and acquisition especially on how to integrate to other useful technology like feed formulation, feeding, etc.
* The zone office of livestock agency is committed to support the extension of feed development and NRM activities on sustainable bases.

**Ethiopia Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) - Development and Social Services Commission (DASSC): Mr. Debela Kenea**

* If the project terminates at this juncture, the sustainability of the initiative is under question. Thus he hoped for the possibility to continue scaling up and out the promising activities on land and termite management. However, even if, the project discontinue, we don’t afraid of the sustainability as trust has been built among different development actors.
* EECMY is happy at the current achievement and is looking forward for the extension of the IP by government line departments
* EECMY is always committed to continue collaboration and being partnership

**Woreda Land Administration head: Beyene Gebissa**

**Position of the woreda gov’t line offices:**

* We need to takeover and make sure the initiative sustain at wider scale
* We need to assess the progress of each activity and solicit for donor and partner institution for additional support
* He thanked Wollega University for their commitment, valuable contribution, useful and inspiring words of promise to supply x-breed heifers for formally organized and supported farmers from woreda government line offices
* He also warmly thanked various institutions and individuals contribution to the success of the intervention. He extended his appreciation to ILRI/IWMI, EECMY CS DASSC Nekemte office and Bako ARC, among others.

**Lalisa Dimtu farmer: Getachew Kenea**

* Comparing to his age, he said the project has come late. He said “I should have learned this a little bit earlier”.
* In the past a lots were travelling far away to learn and innovate but now we farmers accessed to the university being at home
* He is willing to continue researching with researcher on termite management. He testified that there is distinction in yield gain between treated and non-treated plots against termite infestation.
* He finally told us the story of tortoise who gets its head out (appear) to graze or look around and finally pull back when s/he feel uncomfortable or tired. So he urged not to pull back too early like tortoise does. He solicited for sustainable presence of the project and extends feed and land management related initiatives/efforts beyond the existing boundary and reach out many more users.

1. **Individual and partners acknowledgement:**

As recognition to their contribution and to keep their collaboration continues in the future intervention, 36 certificates were issued to champion farmers, district government line offices, individuals and partner institutions. In addition to the certificate, 15 model farmers five each from the three villages were issued farm tools (one spade and hoes) each not only to make sure sustainable engagement of model farmers in to integrated livestock and land management but also to stimulate them to become an ambassador for the scaling up/out of the project. Lists of acknowledged individuals and institutions are presented in the table 1 below. Therefore, the incentive was offered in recognition of their participation and contribution to the IP intervention of the NBDC project since the inception of the project up to now. This recognition, believed to strengthen the harmony among individuals and actors to implement and ensure sustainability of joint research for development activity in the future.



1. **Recapitulation of the Workshop: (Debela and Gerba)**

Mr. Debela appreciated the participants, once more for their sincere participation and contribution to the successful completion of the projects. He assured that solid foundation has already been laid for partners to come together and work on their common issues. He hoped that the collaboration and partnership will continue in the future. In addition, the promise to continue the innovation platform initiatives through humid tropics of ILRI disclosed to the participants. The final update gave every actor a glimmer of hope to scale up /out the pilot activities at larger scale. With this the workshop has come to an end with usual elders pray at 2:40 pm.

**Table 1 Lists of certified/prized/ individuals and institutions**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SN** | **Name** | **Organization/ Occupation** | **Prize** | **Remarks** |
|  | EECMY CS DASSC | NGO | Certificate | Partner & coordinators of the IP |
|  | Wollega University | University | » | Partner & Member of the IP TG |
|  | Bako ARC | Research | » | » |
|  | Diga Woreda Administration | Administration | » | » |
|  | Diga Woreda OA | Rural dev’t | » | » |
|  | Diga woreda livestock agency | Livestock dev’t | » | Partner & local facilitator |
|  | Arojo kebele Administration | Local administration | » | Partner |
|  | Israel Getachew | Head WoA | » | Former member of the IP technical group |
|  | Beyene Gebissa |  | » |
|  | Shibiru Gurmessa | Woreda NRM coordinator | » |
|  | Dereje Kebede | Head Woreda LA | » |
|  | Gutema Berki | Expert WLA | » |
|  | Dandi Temesgen | WU-public relation | » |
|  | Zelalem Desta | Woreda NRM Coordinator | » | Member of the IP technical group |
|  | Dereje Duressa | WU-Community Service Director | » | » |
|  | Wakgari Keba | Researcher, Bako ARC | » | » |
|  | Debela Kenea | EECMY CS DASSC Director | » | Member and coordinator of the local IP |
|  | Tamiru Gemeda | DA, Arjo kebele |  | Member of the IP & local facilitator |
|  | Lensa Keba | » | » | » |
|  | Kidanu Tasissa | » | » | » |
|  | Leta Tuge | Farmer, Dembi village | Farm tools + certificate | Champion/model farmer |
|  | Shitaye Tesgera (F) | » | » | » |
|  | Abetu Begna | » | » | » |
|  | Adugna Begna | » | » | » |
|  | Abebu Reta (F) | » | » | » |
|  | Nasire Tefera | Farmer, Dapo village |  |  |
|  | Mesfin Keba | » | » | » |
|  | Kidanu Dinagde | » | » | » |
|  | Likine Kebede (F) | » | » | » |
|  | Fekadu Ayana | » | » | » |
|  | Dinke Negewo (F) | Farmer, Humbo village |  |  |
|  | Yadeta Terfa | » | » | » |
|  | Temesgen Yada | » | » | » |
|  | Enkossa Dame | » | » | » |
|  | Merga Wedajo | » | » | » |

**Table 2 Lists of participant of Diga IP and RIU termite project closing event**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SN** | **Name** | **Sex** | **Duty station** | **Responsibility** |
|  | Asfaw Temesgen | M | Wollega University | Coop dept head |
|  | Kannan Ambalam (PhD) | » | » | CESE Director |
|  | Getachew Bashargo (PhD) | » | » | Dean, COBE |
|  | Temesgen Garoma (PhD) | » | » | Research Director |
|  | Hirpa Legesse (PhD) | » | » | Lecturer & researcher |
|  | Dereje Duressa | » | » | Community service director |
|  | Dereje Fekadu | » | » | Lecturer/researcher |
|  | Thomas Bekele | » | » | -- |
|  | Mulisa Jida(PhD) | » | » | Instructor/lecturer |
|  | Hachalu Chimdi (PhD) | » | » | » |
|  | Tadele Duressa | » | » | Experts |
|  | Habtamu Wondimu | » | » | Res. & Comm. Coord. |
|  | Ebissa Merga | » | » | Journalist |
|  | Abdela Tufa | » | » | Researcher |
|  | Adamu Kesure | » | » | Accountant |
|  | Degefu Wakjira | » | Diga district | ? |
|  | Ayantu Oljira | F | Bikila kebele | DA |
|  | Samuel Tamene | M | Diga WoA | Deputy head |
|  | Desalegn Sori | » | Diga |  |
|  | Mengistu Terefe | » | East Wollega ZoA | Crop protection expert |
|  | Beyene Gebissa | » | Diga | Land Admin. Head |
|  | Shibiru Gurmessa | » | East Wollega ZoA | Expert |
|  | Dereje Kebede | » | East Wollega ZLA | Expert |
|  | Gutema Berki | » | Nekemte Urban deve’t | Expert |
|  | Zelalem Desta | » | Diga WoA | NRM coordinator |
|  | Wakgari Keba | » | Bako ARC | Researcher |
|  | Debela Kenea | » | EECMY CS Nekemte DASSC | Director |
|  | Tamiru Gemeda | » | Arjo gudatu kebele | Development agent |
|  | Lensa Keba | F | » | » |
|  | Kidanu Tasissa | M | » | » |
|  | Leta Tuge | » | Denbi village, Arjo | Innovative farmer/model |
|  | Shitaye Tesgera | F | » | » |
|  | Abetu Begna | M | » | » |
|  | Adugna Begna | » | » | » |
|  | Abebu Reta | F | » | » |
|  | Nasire Tefera | M | Dupo village, Arjo | » |
|  | Mesfin Keba | » | » | » |
|  | Kidanu Dinagde | » | » | » |
|  | Likine Kebede | F | » | » |
|  | Fekadu Ayana | M | » | » |
|  | Dinke Negewo | F | Humbo village, Arjo | » |
|  | Yadeta Terfa | M | » | » |
|  | Temesgen Yada | » | » | » |
|  | Enkossa Dame | » | » | » |
|  | Merga Wedajo | » | » | » |
|  | Tashoma Ayana | M | Lalisa-Dimitu kebele | Farmer |
|  | Etafa Taye | » | » | » |
|  | Getachew Kenea | » | » | » |
|  | Fekadu Ayana | » | Arjo kebele | » |
|  | Getachew Mulata | » | Bikila kebele | » |
|  | Kamiso Alemayehu | » | Lalisa-dimitu | » |
|  | Fikiru Negara | » | » | » |
|  | Mengesha Bayissa | » | » | » |
|  | Mitiku Tilahun | » | » | » |
|  | Girma Itana | » | » | » |
|  | Zenebech Tesfaye | F | Diga woreda | Women affair |
|  | Takele Ulfina | M | Diga | Development Agent |
|  | Dereje Regassa | » | » | Expert |
|  | Gudina Bedassa | » | » | » |
|  | Yisyak Adisu | » | » | DA |
|  | Ashange Deressa | » | » | » |
|  | Chali Tesfaye | » | » | » |
|  | Alemayehu Lema | » | » | » |
|  | Getahun Hirko | » | » | » |
|  | Tegegne Mitiku | » | Diga WoA | Planning department |
|  | Yeshiembet Befekadu | » | » | » |
|  | Alemu Biratu | » | » | Extension |
|  | Regassa Chewaka | » | Diga WoA | Head & deputy admin. |
|  | Tefera Olani | » | » | SWC expert |
|  | Temesgen Bodena | » | Diga woreda coop. | Cooperative |
|  | Wondimu Tadesse | » | » | » |
|  | Belina Geneti | » | Diga | --- |

**Prepared by Gerba LETA**